U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY www.cma.army.mil

CMA NEWS

November 2006

CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

— Anniston Chemical Activity, Anniston, Ala., began a scheduled maintenance phase in October following a long period of safely disposing of VX-filled M55 rockets.

— Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Richmond, Ky., marked the start of construction of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant at a groundbreaking Open House on Oct. 28 at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. They also held its annual CSEPP community exercise on Oct. 26.

Nancy Taggart, a photographer for the Richmond Register, covered the annual Blue Grass Army Depot CSEPP exercise on Oct. 25, 2006. Here she is shooting the treatment being given to a volunteer exercise 'victim' at the decontamination station established at Church on the Rock in Berea, Ky.

— Deseret Chemical Depot, Tooele, Utah, recently replaced valves and plugs on four mustard agent-filled bulk containers inside the storage area of DCD. Workers safely moved the containers to a separate structure, where they were repaired then later returned to storage igloos to await destruction.

— Newport Chemical Depot, Newport, Ind., has safely eliminated more than 28 percent of its nerve agent VX stockpile since beginning disposal operations in May 2005.

— Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project recently reached a significant milestone when Pine Bluff Munitions Assessment System operators completed the system's second and final campaign at U.S. Army Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark. (See full story, page 2.)

— Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Pine Bluff, Ark., has safely destroyed more than 70 percent of its sarin rocket stockpile since starting operations in March 2005.

— Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore., has safely destroyed more than 3.5 percent of its sarin projectile stockpile since starting operations in September 2006.

ABERDEEN CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY BUILDING TESTS CLEAN AND DEMOLITION BEGINS

The Army recently began demolition of the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Process Neutralization Building where containers of mustard agent that made up the Aberdeen stockpile were drained and their contents neutralized.

Shears and a grapple begin tearing down the Process Neutralization Building where containers of mustard agent were drained and neutralized at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

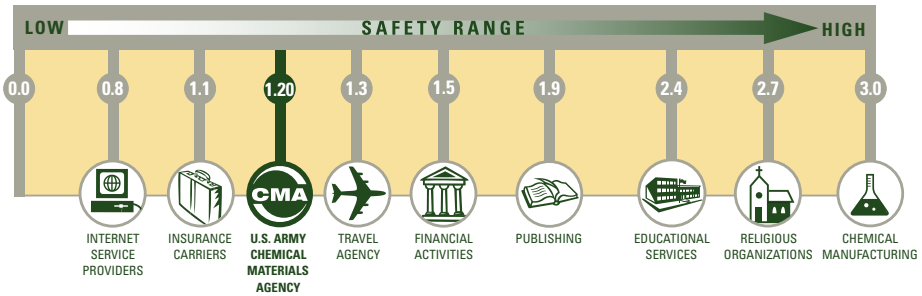
Workers began demolishing the Process Neutralization Building after it was decontaminated and passed a test in which the air handling system was turned off for four hours and the inside of the building was monitored for residual agent vapor. Workers next removed the air handling system, which filtered plant air before it was released to the environment. This step cleared the way for large-scale demolition of the building.

"This follows on the heels of demolition of the Ton Container Cleanout building in September," said Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Site Project Manager (Acting) Brian O'Donnell. "Once we complete demolition of the Process Neutralization Building, we will have cleared and demolished all structures used in the neutralization process. We were able to proceed safely ahead of schedule, thanks to the innovative approach developed by the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility government team and its systems contractor, in planning for facility closure from the project start," he added.

Demolition work in remaining non-agent buildings is more than 70 percent complete. The site expects to finish demolishing these buildings in the spring of 2007.

SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY - CMA Ranks Low in Workplace Injuries

CMA chemical stockpile disposal facilities achieved an average Annual Recordable Injury Rate of 1.20, which, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is low and ranks somewhere between those of insurance carriers and travel agencies.



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ARMY COMPLETES ASSESSMENT MISSION AT PINE BLUFF ARSENAL

The Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) recently reached a significant milestone when Pine Bluff Munitions Assessment System operators completed the system's second and final campaign at U.S. Army Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark. The campaign, which began in July 2005, safely and non-intrusively assessed approximately 1,250 recovered munitions.

Items assessed included the arsenal's inventory of WWII German Traktor rockets, 4.2-inch mortars and miscellaneous munitions. An environmental clean-up program at the arsenal more than 15 years ago resulted in the recovery and secure storage of these once-buried, suspect chemical munitions as well as a large number of glass vials, ampoules and bottles from chemical agent identification sets, or CAIS.

Joe Daven of CMA's Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project said Pine Bluff Munitions Assessment System enabled workers to assess the items using modern technologies to detect the presence and identity of chemical fill and armed and fuzed explosives without opening the item.

"Assessing these munitions without having to open them resulted in our ability to provide maximum safety to the worker," he said. "The accuracy of each assessment resulted in the safe handling of these recovered items and will ultimately lead to each munition's safe disposal."

The items now undergo processing in a transportable treatment system, the Explosive Destruction System. The Explosive Destruction System neutralizes chemical-filled munitions, containing all parts, liquid and vapor within a sealed stainless-steel vessel, making safety and the environment CMA's top priority. Munitions processing is expected to continue into February 2007.

Photo courtesy CMA

Workers at the Pine Bluff Munitions Assessment System recently completed their second and final campaign. The system used non-intrusive assessment technologies to identify the contents of recovered chemical-filled items stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark. Operators also photographed, repackaged and labeled the items before returning them to storage to await processing in a CMA transportable treatment system. The assessment equipment will be stored and the structure converted for use in partially dismantling German Traktor rockets prior to their treatment in CMA's Explosive Destruction System.

The first Pine Bluff Munitions Assessment System campaign, from April 2004 to February 2005, assessed approximately 5,800 CAIS items. CMA used its Rapid Response System, a transportable treatment system, to safely neutralize the CAIS sets' chemical agent using a glove box system with on-site monitoring and laboratory support. Rapid Response System operators finished treating the largest portion of the arsenal's CAIS inventory, 4,906 K941 CAIS sets, in August 2006. CAIS treatment should conclude in November 2006.

NATIONAL SECURITY PERSONNEL SYSTEM FOCUS GROUPS

On Nov. 12, 2006, the Chemical Materials Agency will lead the transition of all of the U.S. Army Materiel Command and Assistant Secretary of the Army's (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology) non-bargaining unit General Schedule employees into the National Security Personnel System (NSPS).

CMA Headquarters hosted two focus groups on Oct. 12 to discuss the National Security Personnel System. HQ and site participants representing both supervisors and non-supervisors discussed issues, provided feedback and made suggestions regarding NSPS implementation.

CMA followed up with a Town Hall Meeting on Oct. 26, hosted by CMA Director Michael Parker, with a presentation by Mr. Michael Vajda, director of the U.S. Army Civilian Human Resources Agency. Among the topics discussed were the members of the pay pools and the milestone dates for NSPS conversion.

Employees can continue to send questions and comments about NSPS to the CMA NSPS Implementation Team at *CMANSPSTeam@brhd.apgea.army.mil*, or can submit them anonymously through the CMA Zapp Program. Access both CMA Zapp and information about NSPS at the CMA Today intranet site, *https://cma.apgea.army.mil/nsps.aspx*. If you have questions or concerns, you also can contact your NSPS site transition officer.

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For more information, call (410) 436-3629 or e-mail hqcmapao@cma.army.mil.